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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER STATE OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH MISUSING  
\$6.3 MILLION OF FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that a federal grand jury has indicted Stephen P. Amos, age 44, of Catonsville, Maryland, for crimes involving the misuse of federal grant funds awarded to the State of Maryland.

The three-count indictment charges that while Amos was Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) between July 2000 and February 2003, Amos was responsible for three types of intentional misapplication of federal grant funds: (1) using GOCCP funds, both federal and state, to pay the salaries and benefits of 10 employees who actually worked on the staff of the former Lieutenant Governor, including her deputy chief of staff and several speech writers and correspondence writers; (2) using federal grant funds that were supposed to be spent on juvenile justice and law enforcement programs to instead increase the numbers of employees at GOCCP by about 40; and (3) not properly accounting for the amount of time spent by GOCCP employees on the federal grants. As a result, the indictment alleges that approximately \$6.3 million of federal grant funds were misapplied.

The indictment further alleges that to facilitate and cover up the diversion of federal criminal

justice grant funds, GOCCP, under the direction of Amos, required grant recipients to: agree to use GOCCP-provided grant money to hire persons who were carried on these entities' payrolls as their employees, but who actually worked at GOCCP; and create records which falsely listed the disguised GOCCP employees as "Faculty Research Assistants" or similar titles. The indictment alleges that those staff members hired for GOCCP through the grant recipients did not report to the grant recipients nor did they perform daily functions at or for the grant recipients. It is further alleged that the grant recipients did not select the GOCCP employees, had no input regarding their continued employment and did not direct their work activities or supervise them in any way.

If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each of the three counts.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jennifer Smith and Gregory Welsh.